

Serial No. 09/256,237

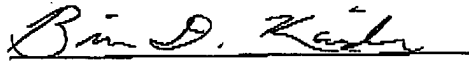
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments, Applicants request the withdrawal of all rejections of the pending claims. Applicants further assert that this application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request early notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

May 2, 2003

Date



Brian D. Kaider

Reg. No. 51,117

HELLER, EHRMAN, WHITE

& McAULIFFE LLP

1666 K Street, N.W.

Suite 300

Washington, DC 20006

Tel: (202) 212-2167

Fax: (202) 212-2020

PAID BY THE PATENT OFFICE



26633

PAID BY THE PATENT OFFICE

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to debit any underpayments, or credit any overpayments, to firm deposit account no. 08-1641.

E